

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST PEST REPORTER

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Donald T. DiFrancesco, Acting Governor

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GYPSY MOTH AERIAL SURVEY SHOWS INCREASE IN DEFOLIATION

The recently completed statewide gypsy moth aerial defoliation survey begun in mid-June revealed 140,838 acres of defoliated forestlands in 16 counties and 94 municipalities throughout the state, a six percent increase over last year.

As expected, most of the defoliation occurred in Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties but major increases in gypsy moth populations were also found in Atlantic, Burlington and Cape May Counties reflecting the pest's spread into central and southern areas of the state.

NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 2001 GYPSY MOTH AERIAL SURVEY					
County	Number Municipalities Infested	Moderate 25-50%	Heavy 51-75%	Severe 76-100%	Total Acreage Defoliated
Atlantic	3	0	1,501	37	1,538
Bergen	10	1,087	8,466	5,876	15,429
Burlington	10	0	526	4,214	4,740
Camden	2	0	870	0	870
Cape May	1	0	726	0	726
Cumberland	1	0	46	0	46
Gloucester	2	0	80	111	191
Hunterdon	7	83	266	33	382

County	Number Municipalities Infested	Moderate 25-50%	Heavy 51-75%	Severe 76-100%	Total Acreage Defoliated
Monmouth	2	0	0	149	149
Morris	9	5,297	18,109	4,746	28,152
Ocean	4	48	259	167	474
Passaic	7	7,880	8,738	32,283	48,901
Salem	5	0	1,055	701	1,756
Somerset	3	0	176	0	176
Sussex	15	18,026	13,035	705	31,766
Warren	13	3,967	1,483	92	5,542
Totals	94	36,388	55,290	49,160	140,838

Evaluations are still being conducted on this year's aerial treatment blocks. While good foliage protection was found in most treatment areas, heavy defoliation was observed in several spray blocks in Passaic County where egg mass levels were extremely high and caterpillars migrated back into treated areas.

In general, the caterpillar fungal disease, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, did not play a major role in reducing the gypsy moth population this year, and the moths succeeded in mating and depositing huge numbers of egg masses for next year's infestations.

NJDA personnel will soon contact the 94 defoliated municipalities to offer a gypsy moth egg mass survey prior to determining if spraying will be needed next spring. For a copy of the complete results of the gypsy moth defoliation survey for each municipality, contact John Kegg at address on cover page or E-mail address below.

<p>For further information contact: John D. Kegg, Chief Bureau of Plant Pest and Disease Control e-mail john.kegg@ag.state.nj.us</p>
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